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Geography Division, ORR

PROJ

14-2-2

Project Initiation Memorandum

To: Chief, Geographic Research

Project No. 63.1810

From: Acting Chief, Geography Division

Date: 7 October 1959

1. Subject of Proposed Project: South Tirol
2. Statement of Problem: South Tirol, a part of Italy containing a large German-speaking minority, has long been an irritant in Austro-Italian relations. Recent Austrian agitation for more cultural rights for this minority promises to bring the Tirol question even more into the limelight. We propose to write a Geographic Intelligence Memorandum discussing the factors basic to the dispute. The following outline is preliminary only.

- a. Treaty provisions guaranteeing Tirolese minority right, and Italian legislation on the same.
- b. Population of South Tirol.
 - 1.) Ethnic distribution, area-wise and by rural-urban breakdown.
 - 2.) Relative growth of Italian and Austrian elements.
- c. Political parties -- relative strength in entire region and by local areas.
- d. German cultural media -- schools, newspapers, etc.
- e. Economic development. Industrial growth-implications for greater dominance of the Italian element.
- f. Transportation and communications. Ties to Italy and Austria respectively.
- g. Strategic implications -- a minor factor.

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3. Requester: Self-initiated.

4. Analysts: [REDACTED]

5. Kind and Extent of Cooperation Desired from:

- a. Other Divisions of the G Area: Probable maps by D/GC are:
 - 1.) Terrain, transportation and industry.
 - 2.) Ethnic
 - 3.) German language schools, newspapers, etc.
 - 4.) Voting strength in last elections.
- b. Other parts of CIA: Coordination with OCI.
- c. Outside CIA: Possible coordination with State.

6. Estimated Man Months in D/GC: 120.

7. Completion Date: December 1959.

8. Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR GM (for standard distribution).

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Approved: 25X1A9a

Chief, Geographic Research

12 OCT 1959

Date

13 OCT 1959

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Comments on backslip:

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From [REDACTED]

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This is being initiated in view of the mounting tension and the possibility that the issue could come before the U.N., thus requiring U.S. knowledge of basic considerations as well as the formulation of a position. If the situation "cools off" we will either shelve it or issue it in other form. /s/ Jim

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From [REDACTED]

Ch/G:

My concern is that the general problem is so well known.

/s/ [REDACTED]

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